Ways of Gaining Provision from Allaah

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All praise is due to Allaah alone; may He send salutations and exalt the mention of the seal of all Prophets and Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

Many people nowadays complain about the decrease of their provisions from Allaah and the struggle they face to provide for themselves. This preoccupies their hearts and minds and worries them to such an extent that they try all possible ways and means in order to increase it. For example, a person may deal in interest to increase his income, another may take bribes, a third may lie and deceive others, a fourth may shed blood, and so on.

All of these evils are simply to fulfil the needs of their wives and children. Such people seem to forget that Allaah has given His slaves the appropriate means by which they may gain provision from Him. He has fully clarified the reasoning behind them and has promised those who adhere to these that they will receive abundant provision as well as protection from Him, and they will be provided for in ways that they never could have imagined.

Beloved Muslims! The following are the ways of gaining provision from Allah:

1. *Piety*

Allaah made being fearful of Him a way of gaining or increasing ones provisions. He says what means: ***"And whosoever fears Allaah and keeps his duty to Him, He will make a way for him to get out (from every difficulty), and He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allaah, then He will suffice him. Verily, Allaah will accomplish his purpose. Indeed Allaah has set a measure for all things."*** *(At-Talaaq:2-3)* Allaah will reward, in this life and the Hereafter, those who fear Him and are mindful of what pleases Him in all situations. One of the worldly rewards is that Allaah will make a way out for him from hardships and adversities, and He will provide him in ways which he never could have imagined. Allaah says what means: ***"And if the people of the towns had believed and had the Taqwaa (piety), certainly, We should have opened for them blessings from the heaven and the earth, but they belied (the Messengers). So We took them (with punishment) for what they used to earn (polytheism and crimes)."*** *(Al-A'raaf:96) Shaykh As-Sa'di,* may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: *"If they truly and sincerely believed with their hearts, proved their belief with actions and were fearful of Allaah inwardly*

and outwardly, Allaah would have opened for them blessings: from the Heavens by sending rain, and the earth by causing plants to grow by which they as well as their cattle would benefit. They would have lived the richest life without the least difficulty or effort."

What is this piety that Allaah made a reason behind gaining provisions? Why did He inform us that He would sustain the pious unlimitedly?

Piety is that which places a barrier between you and that which harms you. It is a protection which comes in the form of performing everything which Allaah has commanded one to do as well as refraining from everything that Allaah has prohibited. Indeed ones life revolves around these two things. There are many statements which were made by the *Salaf* in this regard explaining and defining piety.

Ibn Mas'ood (رضي الله عنه) said: *"It (i.e., piety) is to obey Allaah and never disobey Him; to remember Him and not forget Him; and to thank Him and never be ungrateful to Him."*

Beloved Muslim! If you wish to increase your provision from Allaah and live a comfortable life, then fear Allaah and be pious in all your affairs: at home, at work and with your family. Protect your-

self from sins, adhere to the commandments of your Lord, refrain from His prohibitions and protect yourself from whatever results in His punishment.

2. *Repentance and seeking forgiveness*

Informing us about Prophet *Nooh* (عليه السلام), Allaah says what means: ***"I said (to them): 'Ask forgiveness from your Lord, verily, He is Oft-Forgiving. He will send [rain from] the sky upon you in [continuing] showers and give you increase in wealth and children, and bestow on you gardens and bestow on you rivers.' "*** *(Nooh: 10-12)* Commenting on this, *Imaam Ibn Katheer,* may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: *"If you repent to Allaah, supplicate to Him for forgiveness and obey His commandments, He will increase your provisions, send down blessings from the Heavens and bring forth plantations from the earth, increase the milk production from your animals, grant you children and wealth, and provide you with gardens through which rivers flow which contain different types of fruits."*

Allaah says what means: ***"And (commanding you): "Seek the forgiveness of your Lord, and turn to Him in repentance, that He may grant you good enjoyment, for a term appointed, and bestow His***

abounding Grace to every owner of grace (i.e. the one who helps and serves the needy and deserving, physically and with his wealth, and even with good words). But if you turn away, then I fear for you the torment of a Great Day (i.e. the Day of Resurrection." *(Hood:3)* Allaah has promised the one who repents and seeks His forgiveness good enjoyment, increased provisions and the bestowal of bounties. The Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***"Allaah will relieve one who excessively seeks His forgiveness from all grief, find a way out for him from all hardships and provide him from means which he could never have expected."*** *(Ahmad & Abu Daawood)*

The type of supplication for forgiveness which brings provisions, increases it and blesses it is that which is made from the heart as well as the tongue, while he is not persistent in his sin. However, the one who seeks forgiveness verbally, whilst at the same time committing different types of sins, is not truthful in his supplications, and these supplications will be fruitless.

If Allaah has provided for you abundantly, then rush to repentance and follow your words with actions. Beware of uttering supplications with your tongue alone because these are the actions of a liar.

3. *Reliance on Allaah*

Allaah says what means: ***"And He will provide him from (sources) he never could imagine. And whosoever puts his trust in Allaah, He will suffice him. Verily, Allaah will accomplish his purpose. Indeed Allaah has set a measure for all things."*** *(At-Talaaq:3)* He whose heart hopes in Allaah alone in bringing benefit or preventing harm, and puts his trust fully in Him, He will suffice him, relieve him from all grief and provide him from sources which others are deprived of.

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***"If you rely on Allaah as He should be relied on, He will provide for you as He provides for the birds; they go out in the morning with empty stomachs and return full."*** *(Ahmad & Tirmidhi)*. Commenting on this *hadeeth, Ibn Rajab,* may Allaah have mercy upon him, said: *"This Hadeeth is a fundamental in the issue of reliance upon Allaah, and it is one of the greatest reasons for gaining provisions. Some of the Salaf have said, 'If you rely on Allaah, provisions will come to you without any effort.' "*

Reliance on Allaah is to express ones inherent incapacity, complete and inclusive dependence on Allaah alone, along with the certainty that Allaah alone has control over the universe and that the affairs of all of creation are under His Will. It is He alone Who provides, creates, grants and deprives from bounties, benefits, afflicts, gives wealth, causes poverty, health, sickness, life and death.

Reliance on Allaah does not entail abandoning the utilisation of worldly means, because Allaah has commanded us to utilise all possible means along with relying on Him. Physically striving to utilise all worldly means is in fact an act of obedience to Allaah, and reliance on Him with ones heart reflects his belief in Him. Allaah says what means: ***"Then when the (Jumu'ah) Salaat (prayer) is ended, you may disperse through the land, and seek the Bounty of Allaah (by working)."*** *(Al-Jumu'ah: 10)*

A Muslim is required to utilise all means, but without relying on them for the results. Instead, he should firmly believe that the matter is completely with Allaah, and that He alone is The Provider.

4. *Maintaining ties of kinship*

There are many *ahaadeeth* which prove this. *Abu Hurayrah* may Allaah be pleased with him, heard the Prophet (ﷺ) saying: ***"He who would like to increase his provisions and remain mentioned with goodness among the people should maintain good ties with his kinship."*** *(Bukhaari)*

'Ali Ibn Abu Taalib may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***"He who desires that he be granted more provision, his life be prolonged and that Allaah protects him against an evil death should fear Allaah and maintain good ties with his kinship."*** *(Ahmad)*

The Prophet (ﷺ) clarified that good ties with kinship has many fruits and good outcomes; it increases ones provisions, prolongs life, protects against an evil death and brings love between relatives. The question therefore arises: who are kin and how does one maintain good ties with them?

Kin are any blood or marital relative, regardless of whether one can Islamically inherit from them or not. Ties may be maintained in many ways: visiting them, giving them gifts, enquiring about their condition, giving charity to the poor amongst them, being kind and respectful to the old amongst them, inviting

them and being hospitable to them, joining them in their celebrations and joy, comforting them during adversities, supplicating for them, holding no grudges against them, accepting their invitations, visiting them when they are sick, advising them, enjoining them with good and forbidding them from evil, protecting them from evil and many others.

5. *Spending for the sake of Allaah*

There are many texts addressing this issue in the Qur'aan and the Sunnah, and proving it to be a way for gaining provisions such as:

Allaah says what means: ***"Say: Truly, my Lord enlarges the provision for whom He wills of His slaves, and (also) restricts (it) for him, and whatsoever you spend of anything (in Allaah's Cause), He will replace it. And He is the Best of providers."*** *(Saba':39) Ibn Katheer* may Allaah have mercy upon him, said commenting on this: *"This means that whatever you spend in the areas that Allaah has commanded or allowed you to spend in, it will be replaced in this life and rewarded for in the Hereafter."*

Allaah says what means: ***"O you who believe! Spend of the good things which you have (legally)***

earned, and of that which We have produced from the earth for you, and do not aim for that which is bad to spend from it, (though) you would not accept it save if you close your eyes and tolerate therein. And know that Allaah is Rich (Free of all needs), and Worthy of all praise. Shaitaan (Satan) threatens you with poverty and orders you to commit Fahshaa (evil deeds, illegal sexual intercourse, sins); whereas Allaah promises you forgiveness from Himself and bounty, and Allaah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower.” *(Al-Baqarah:267-268) Ibn ‘Abbaas,* may Allaah be pleased with him, said: *"Two things are from Allaah and two things are from Satan. Satan says: 'Do not spend your wealth, and hold on to it because you need it,' and then commands you to do evil. Allaah promises you forgiveness for your sins and more blessing in your provisions. Allaah conceals the sins of His slave in this life and the Hereafter, and increases his provisions in this life and bestows His bounties upon him in the Hereafter."*

The Prophet (ﷺ) said on behalf of his Lord: ***“O son of Aadam! Spend and I will sustain you.”*** *(Muslim)*

These *ahaadeeth* and many others encourage spending and promise great rewards and bounties

from Allaah, plus raising the rank of the spender.

6. *Repeatedly performing Hajj and 'Umrah*

Ibn Mas'ood (ﷺ) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***"Repeatedly perform Hajj and 'Umrah, because they get rid of poverty and sins just as fire gets rid of the impure particles in metal, gold and silver. A correctly performed Hajj will have no less a reward than Paradise."*** *(Tirmidhi & Nasaa'i)*

7. *Kindness to the weak*

The Prophet (ﷺ) clarified that people receive provisions and victory by virtue of being kind to the weak among their ranks. *Mus'ab Ibn Sa'd* (ﷺ) said that *S'ad* (ﷺ) felt that he (*Sa'd*) had more virtue than other companions of the Prophet (ﷺ), so the Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***"You only get provisions and victory by virtue of having the weak among your ranks."*** *(Bukhaari)*

Abu Ad-Dardaa' (ﷺ) heard the Prophet (ﷺ) saying: ***"Take care of the weak among your ranks, for you only get provisions and victory by virtue of***

having the weak amongst your ranks.” *(Abu Daawood & Tirmidhi)*

The weak to whom the Prophet (ﷺ) referred to are of different types, such as the poor, the needy, orphans, the sick, strangers and women who have no guardians or slaves. The way to show kindness to them differs from one type to another: the poor by giving them money and gifts, the orphan and women with no guardians by checking on them and financially supporting them, the sick by visiting them and encouraging them to persevere and so on.

Slaves of Allaah! If you wish to increase you provisions, gain the support of Allaah, be kind to the weak and refrain from harming them.

8. *Devoting oneself to worship*

Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) narrated that the Prophet (ﷺ) said: ***“Allaah The Exulted says: O son of Aadam! Devote yourself to My worship. I will fill your heart with contentment and make you rich; otherwise, I will make your life hectic and keep you poor.”*** *(Tirmidhi & Ibn Maajah)* In this *Hadeeth*, Allaah promises the one who devotes himself to the wor-

ship of Allaah two things: contentment and wealth, It is known that the one towhom Allaah gives a contented heart, poverty will never find a way to reach him.

Devoting oneself to worshipping Allaah does not mean that one stops seeking provisions, refrains from working and sits in the mosque day and night. Rather, what is meant is that the slave should always have his heart attentive during his worship to Allaah, humble himself to Him, be aware of His greatness and remember that he is invoking upon the King of the Heavens and the earth.

There are other ways to increase ones provisions which we will mention in brief:

9. Migrating for the sake of Allaah.

10. *Jihaad* for the sake of Allaah.

11. Thankfulness to Allaah.

12. Marriage.

13. Supplicating to Allaah during times of need.

14. Shunning sins and maintaining oneself upon

the religion of Allaah by performing acts of obedience.

This last way is the most important of all what has been mentioned, for provisions are gained by obedience and lost by disobedience, and a person gets deprived from provisions due to a sin he commits. Sins are the greatest cause for losing provisions, having a difficult life and losing blessings in life. Allaah says what means: ***"If they (non-Muslims) had believed in Allaah, and went on the Right Way (i.e. Islaam), We would surely have bestowed on them water (rain) in abundance."*** *(Al-Jinn:16)* This means that if they maintained themselves upon the path of truth, guidance and belief, He would have increased their provisions.